

Long Island State Veterans Home



AT STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

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May 22, 2020

Dear LISVH Family Member:

As we begin this Memorial Day weekend, we remember all those who made the ultimate sacrifice to defend the freedoms we all enjoy as Americans. Although we will be honoring these Veterans in a different way this year, our sentiments remain the same. America owes a great debt to all those who left the comforts of their homes to fight for us and our freedom; but never returned to one day trade the title of Soldier, Sailor, Airman, Marine or Coast Guardsman for the title of Veteran.

As we stand here in the midst of a global pandemic, Memorial Day will have a special meaning for many State Veterans Homes around our great nation. Our Home was not immune to this public health crisis, as we have lost 79 Veterans since March 10, 2020 to the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). Please know that we grieve with all of our families who were impacted. Their loved ones will be remembered, as each one of them was a big part of our great community here at the Long Island State Veterans Home.

We continue to comply with the New York State Governor's Executive Order to have all nursing home employees tested twice a week. Today we began swab testing in our Multi-Purpose Room on all three shifts. On-site testing will help us to be in substantial compliance with this important Executive Order and in addition, make it more convenient for all our valued employees. More testing leads to more results. More results lead to better decisions on staffing. Better decisions lead to best practices. Since March 10, 2020, we have had 95 of our 675 employees test positive for the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). Of those, 54 have recovered and are back to work.

Personal Protective Equipment remains adequate in all categories and we continue to stockpile supplies for the future. Having the proper equipment is essential in dealing with this virus and we remain vigilant in securing the PPE we need to get the job done.

In normal times, the Friday before Memorial Day is reserved for our annual Memorial Day Ceremony in our Multi-Purpose Room. Instead, we are swab testing our employees for COVID-19 in the MPR. This year's ceremony will be virtual and will be broadcasted on Channel 67 within the Home. We also plan to post the ceremony on our website as well. We have received an overwhelming response from our federal, state and local officials to be part of the Ceremony. We hope you will take some

time this weekend to watch our Memorial Day Ceremony. We would also like to thank all our Veterans for their incredible service to our country. Furthermore, we will never forget the service of those who have died in battle to protect our nation and preserve our liberty.

Please continue to stay safe this Memorial Day weekend. If we can be of further service to you, feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

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